

Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their time and skills to help others in a time of need



Hurricane hero

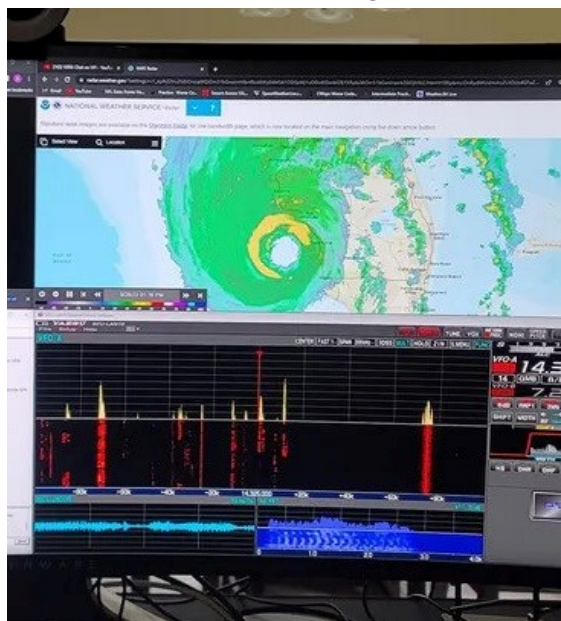
28 September 2022, near the end of the official hurricane season, just one more major storm had to roll in, and it was a big one. After ravaging Puerto Rico, then Cuba, [Hurricane Ian](#) made landfall on the west Florida coast from the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 4 storm.

That morning, Dale Klonin KC3TAU, Baltimore Airport firefighter, was monitoring the Florida Emergency Net and the net from the National Hurricane Center. He and his wife then left for a tune-up appointment and met Aly, the service advisor. Aly mentioned her sister Kelsey, who was texting that her boyfriend's truck was submerged and that the flood waters were about to breach their second-story Sanibel Island apartment. Dale told Aly that he's an amateur radio operator, and might be able to help, so Aly gave him the info he needed to pass on.



Dale Klonin KC3TAU at his home station

As Dale hurried home, Aly texted him updates and photos. *By the way, Aly said, there's eight other people there, and a dog.* Aly gave Dale the coordinates of his sister's apartment. At home, Dale immediately tuned into one of the emergency nets and threw out his call sign. After Net Control acknowledges Dale, *I have someone here in Maryland, and they're receiving messages from their loved ones on Sanibel Island. The island is destroyed, their house is battered... Dale continued, ...and it's flooding. They may need possible rescue.*



Tracking the hurricane

Dale continued to exchange information with Net Control, and the conversation went to email. *Before I was even done talking on the radio, the authorities knew exactly where they were.* Then, Dale got the news from Aly. *They're ok, The authorities are texting with them, and they're going to be alright.*

You know, ham radio operators do so much behind the scenes, and they never get any credit. They do this out of the kindness of their hearts. Aly said, I didn't ask him to do any of that; he offered. And he was in direct contact with me all night on Wednesday.

Dale and his wife live in Hampstead, Maryland, and Dale got his license in November 2021. You can read more about Dale's story on [Vigour Times](#) and on [FoxNews](#).